"The district of the Querns, with the Amphitheatre, is in the Chesterton tything; 'the name of which has a kind of evidence of its antiquity, for the Saxon Ceastre (and so our Chester), comes plainly from the Roman Castrum,' and the Romans must have had large quarryings as well as earth works in this direction."

In the (too slight) chapter on architecture some fragments of capitals and bases of columns are described, the latter used for merely upholding along with numerous pilæ of hollow bricks, the terras or floor of a room in a Roman villa.

"Three of these were Roman Ionic or Attic bases, with the lower torus the same diameter as the upper: these are without plinths, and are well turned, the shaft being plain.

The fourth cannot properly be referred to any of the purely classic orders of architecture; it is however of undoubted Roman work, and may be looked upon as a *composite* style: there is great elegance in its details, though the frequent repetition of the ogee moulding is not in the purest taste. The shaft of this also was plain.

The situation of these, supporting the terras of a room, shows either that they must have been portions of rejected or injured work, or else the remains of some earlier building, and, from the appearance of them, we incline to the latter opinion; but, whichever be the received notion, they equally prove that architecture must have reached a high degree of perfection in Corinium, or we should not meet with portions of classic buildings taking the places of common bricks, for no other apparent reason than that the latter ran short, and these bases, of which we might conceive more were at hand, were used as the readiest method of completing the requisite number of pilæ.

These bases are further interesting, as evidencing that during a long period architecture, in the advanced style of Rome herself, was practised in England by the Roman colonists; and they further shew that within the walls of Corinium, the arts of peace, of which architecture is not the least in importance, were characteristic of that city. * * *

Stonework of the usual kind, employed in domestic architecture, is found in all the villas of Corinium, but as these edifices were generally plain externally, and as, moreover, all that now remains of them is little more than portions of these walls, a few feet below the present level of the soil, we can scarcely expect to trace more than foundations of stonework: these appear to have been put in in a substantial manner: the superincumbent masonry is of ashlared stone externally, the internal wall being composed of ruder stones, concreted together and made smooth inside by finer concrete and mortar, the whole together being from two to three feet in thickness. The jambs of doors are generally made of upright slabs of stone, devoid of moulding or architectural detail, and indeed the Roman dwellings of *Corinium* afford no exception to the general *external* plainness and simplicity of the domestic architecture of this people. The roofs of houses appear to have been made of the fissile stone of the district. Bricks entered largely into the architectural details of the houses, and these, which will be hereafter described, were of various shapes, according to the uses for which they were designed. The arch of the Præfurnium was composed of thick clay tiles, like those used in flooring modern cottage kitchens, and these were uniformly hard and well made. The different materials of which the dwellings were built, as stones, tiles, bricks, and concrete, are generally found intermixed and covering up the floors in the greatest possible confusion."

Illustrations in colours, prepared with the aid of Talbotype, are given of the very interesting tessellated pavement discovered last year at Cirencester, and there are also coloured plates of the previously discovered pavements. In describing these and particularly the former, some local observations on the method of constructing tessellated floors are given, with incidental remarks on hollow and other bricks, and on hypocausts and heating rooms. From these we glean the following particulars:—

"Roman floors appear to have been of two classes.

First, floors elevated above the level of the ground, generally upon a number of small supports or pillars, called *Pilæ*, in which case they receive the name of *Suspensuræ*, and were mostly finished with various designs in *Tessellæ*.

Secondly, floors formed on the ground, and without supports, also sometimes tessellated, but not always, as these belonged to second class rooms, and were generally in that portion of the house not used for the immediate accommodation of the proprietor.

I. The suspensuræ were generally the floors of the highest class, and of the most ornate description; they consequently indicate the best portion of the house, and are not, as was at one time universally believed, to be referred exclusively to baths, but were most frequently arrangements for heating the different apartments of the abode of the Roman.

On the removal of the first floor of last year's discoveries, in Dyer-street, the method adopted for the support of the terrass and pavement was admirably shown. In this instance the ground appeared to have been prepared with rubbish, made hard perhaps by beating, and upon this were placed the pilæ or small pillars, in eight rows, with eight in each row, at nearly equal distances from each other over the surface of this prepared floor.

The pilæ were made of various materials, most of them of bricks, eight inches square, surmounted by a larger brick, twelve inches square, forming a cap. Some of the pilæ were constructed of rough hewn blocks of stone, others of part stone, and the rest of bricks, to the required height. Upon each of the little columns so formed rested flanged tiles, with the flange placed downwards, thus forming a continuous floor of tiles, upon which the concrete, composed of a mixture of pounded bricks and lime, was evenly laid, about six inches thick, and this done the whole preparations were complete for the designs of the artist in mosaics.

The flanged tiles, as used for this room, were somewhat curiously placed, the flange being laid downwards, on a larger tile, which formed the cap of the pilæ, whilst all round the room was a projection in the wall, upon which the outer flanges rested. A reference to the Journal of the Archæological Institute, vol v., p. 28, will show a section of some pilæ discovered in Thames-street, in which the flanges are placed upwards: this was a good plan to hold the concrete more securely, but the method employed in the Cirencester example would tend to keep the whole super-structure drier, which was doubtless a reason for the adoption of this arrangement.

The room A presents different arrangements, for warming and ventilation, from the previous one: on removing its terrass and tessellæ, it appeared that half the floor rested on pilæ, the other portion on a previously prepared solid foundation, ranged within a wall of the height of the pilæ. The hypocaust of the former half offered some deviation from that of the room just described; in this the outer rows of pilæ were composed of hollow flue tiles, placed on end, in some of which was put a mass of mortar, apparently to keep them steady, by increasing their weight: these measured 16½ inches high, 6½ inches wide, and 5 inches deep, and had sometimes one, but more frequently two square holes cut on either of their thinner sides, and were ornamented on their flat sides with various lines, some waved and some straight, scarcely two being alike: these, from their variety and the sharp commencement of many of them, appear to have been made in the more complicated examples, with an instrument for that purpose, perhaps of a comb-like form, whilst many of the simply waved lines were made with the fingers, but all of them as the will and fancy of the workman dictated. Under this floor were also two or three larger hollow bricks, of 18 inches long and 8½ inches wide, and 6½ inches deep.

Other pilæ were formed of the 8-inch square bricks, some of rough hewn square stones, and the exceptions, mentioned at page 22, by bases of old columns: upon each of the kinds of pilæ, which were raised to the height of 20 inches, rested a larger tile, as a sort of cap, 1 foot square, and these each supported another tile 2 feet square, all of which, meeting at the edges, formed a continuous and evenly laid floor of strong tiles, firmly upheld by the pilæ, on which to lay the terrass.

From these arrangements it will be seen that the great object to attain was that of a free passage of air underneath the pavement, as floors of stone, in a cold and humid climate like that of England, would require some arrangement of the kind, not only to keep them from damp, but also for the purpose of warmth; and in order to effect this, a large arch, built of the flat bricks, opened into the hypocaust, through the north-west wall, which connected it with the *Præfurnium*, and the heated air also could be admitted into the room by two flues, which were built in the wall.

That this arrangement was solely for heating the apartment, and not, as was at one time generally believed, for the purpose of the bath, is further confirmed by only one-half of this floor being a suspensura, a circumstance which appears to be well explained by Mr. Tucker, who considers that 'the two parts of the room were intended for use at different seasons of the year, and that it was the *Triclinium* of the house, that portion over the hypocaust being the Triclinium hybernum, and the other end the Triclinium æstivum, for use in warm weather.'

The quantity of bricks, tiles, and other architectural fictilia removed from the site, offer some interesting examples of the great use made of these in Roman buildings, and their different forms and sizes, each with their peculiar adaptations, seem to afford a valuable lesson to the moderns upon the inexpediency of fettering the manufacture of such useful adjuncts in architecture by fiscal restrictions.

These bricks appear to have been made with great care, and are even now as hard as when first removed from the kiln: indeed, it is a rare exception to find a Roman brick in Corinium that has been at all acted upon by atmospheric causes; so that we may conclude that they were brought here from a distance, as the neighbourhood affords no clay that would make them of this good quality: this perhaps may account for the occasional use of stones, and the portions of old columns, which were found intermixed with the usual brick pilæ.

It was doubtless this cause which influenced the brickmaker—who would depend upon the quality of his article for his customers—to adopt a *method of marking* his more particular specimens of manufacture, such as the hollow bricks, or to stamp his name or initials, as we observed in some few instances, on the flanged tiles.

II. Floors where the hypocaust was absent were generally small, and without the more elaborate decorative details, but their substratum was prepared with great care, and every precaution was adopted against damp.

The ground was first prepared by beating it, so as to form a hard foundation, upon which was laid a stratum of gravel and bits of broken bricks and tiles: this, which was of irregular thickness, perhaps to meet varied circumstances, was also made firm and compact. Next came a layer of from four to six inches thick, made of mixed coarsely powdered brick, lime, and sand, united into a solid concrete; this was laid as smooth as possible, so that only a small quantity of the finer cement would be required to make the whole fit for the pavement: these three layers appear generally to have been made in accordance with the directions given by Vitruvius, by whom they are described as,

Nucleus
Rudus
Statumen

} which united make up the *Ruderatio*.

Upon this *Nucleus* tessellæ were laid in villas of importance, or in better rooms, but frequently these were dispensed with, and Corinium has furnished floors made of cement, and it is probable that only a portion of the floors were laid in mosaics in any building; this may have resulted as part of the plan, or it may have been left, in many instances, with the intention of adding tessellæ, at some more convenient period.

It would appear that these cement floors were sometimes coloured, after the manner of fresco, one of this kind having been mentioned to us by Mr. Gregory, of Cirencester, as occurring in the Leasues garden; but there is reason to believe, from its very liability to injury and destruction in such a situation, that this method for ornamentation for floors was not generally adopted.*

Details, with illustrations, of Roman and Samian pottery, Roman glass, works in metal, coins, urns, and tombs occupy much of the remainder of this volume. One of the most striking of the illustrations of metal works is perhaps that of a pair of compasses, of undoubted Roman origin it is said, but identical in every respect with the ordinary modern article, as if it were the great antiquarian prototype whence compasses have ever since been religiously copied, with the scrupulosity of an imitative talent worthy of China itself.

KENSINGTON PALACE FOR A NATIONAL GALLERY.

Although the evidence on the condition of the pictures in the National Gallery has been given before a select committee of the House of Commons, and consequently with closed doors to the public, yet it is pretty well understood to be universally unfavourable to their future conservation in the present locality.†

An idea was tolerably prevalent that a portion of the substantial erection first projected

* It may be remarked, as tending to throw some light upon the method in which these remains have been entombed in the manner we find them, that the floors are always covered up by a few inches of a finer kind of rubble, occasionally with reddish iron patches: this is no doubt due to the gradual falling of the plaster of the walls, by which, as it mouldered away when these houses were uninhabited by the Romans, the ornamental floors were screened from view. The successors in power, finding these habitations, when they began to colonise, either not suitable to their own tastes, or in too dilapidated a state for re-edification, built houses according to their own fancies, using the piles of stones of the Roman town as quarries whence could readily be procured the necessary materials. We should expect that, after so great a change as the fall of the Roman power in Britain, decay of the kind supposed would naturally ensue, and this accounts for the universal coating of the kind indicated, it is presumed, far more satisfactorily than supposing that this fine rubble covering was put down designedly, by the proprietor, to protect the pavement, in the hope that in better days he might return and find them unimpaired.

† Sir David Wilkie's nose in the statue placed in the hall of the National Gallery exhibits an effectual sample of the deposit arising from the infected atmosphere pervading the interior of the National Gallery. It would be apity indeed if this visual demonstration were obliterated, until some change were determined on, as it may be regarded now to be a newly introduced instrument, called a dirtometer.

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